

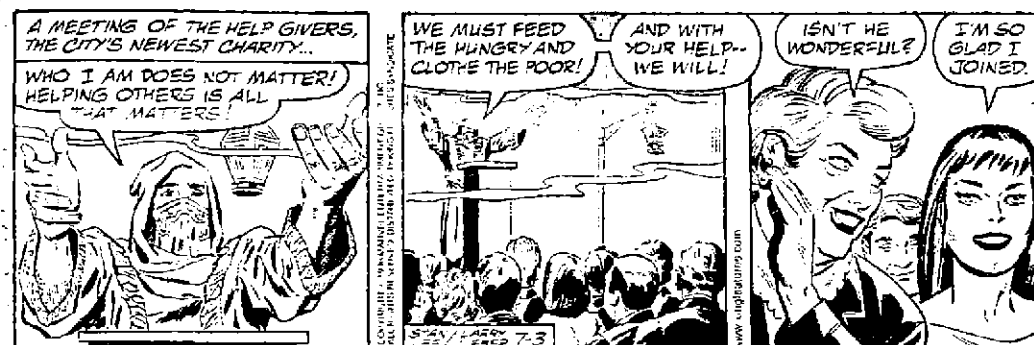
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



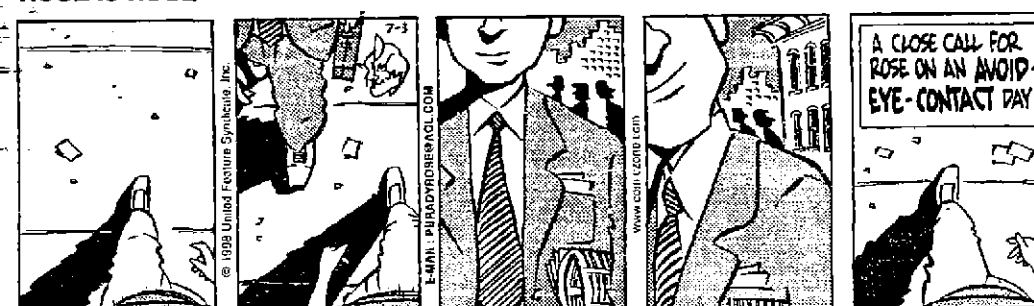
9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



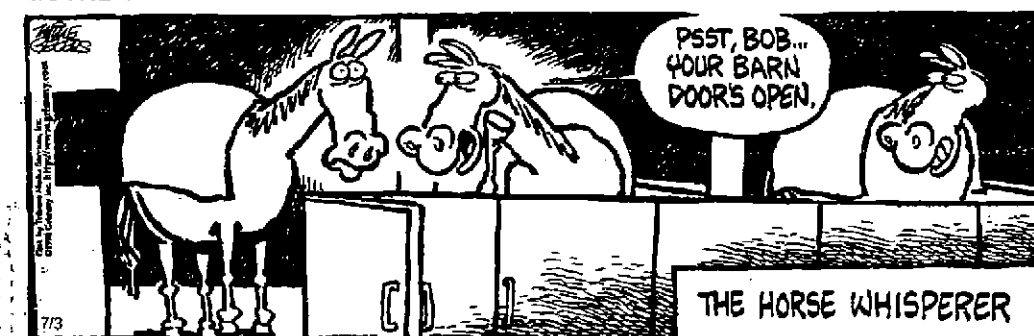
ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



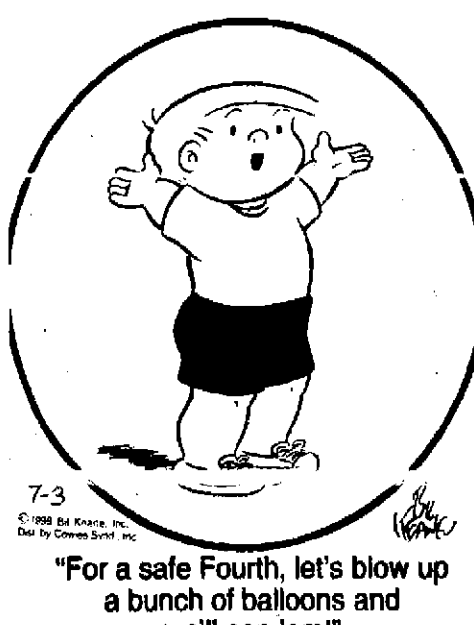
DILBERT



DENNIS THE MENACE



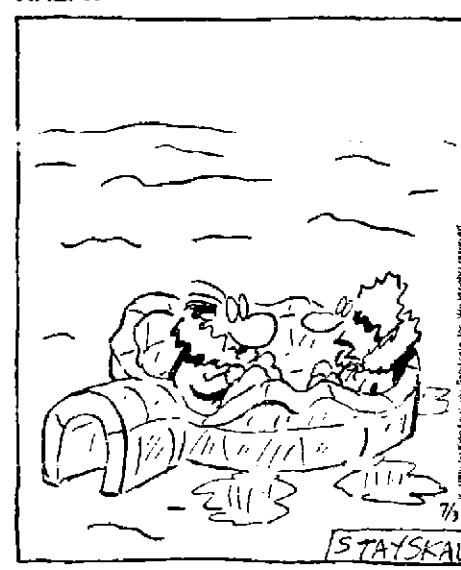
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



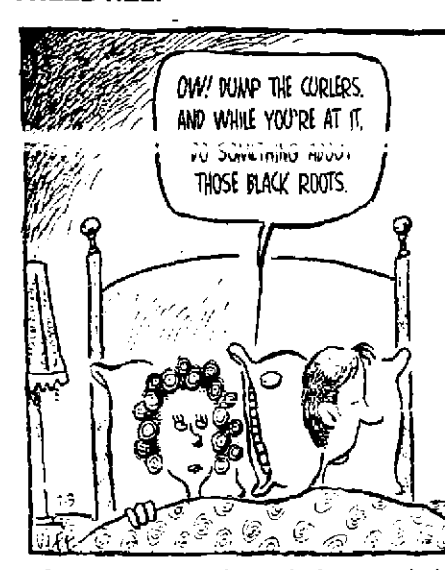
RALPH



Today's Birthdays

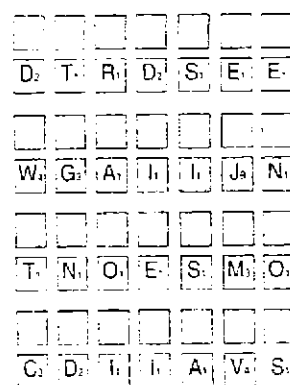
Movie director Ken Russell is 71. Jazz musician Pete Fountain is 68. Playwright Tom Stoppard is 61. Singer Fontella Bass is 58. Actor Kurtwood Smith ("RoboCop") is 56. Actor Michael Cote ("The Mod Squad") is 53. Country singer Johnny Lee is 52. Actress Betty Buckley is 51. Talk show host Montel Williams is 42. Singer Laura Brannigan is 41. Country singer Aaron Tippin is 40. Actor Tom Cruise is 36.

I NEED HELP



Stephanie becomes increasingly annoyed with Andre's pillow talk.

SCRABBLE



PAR SCORE 120-130

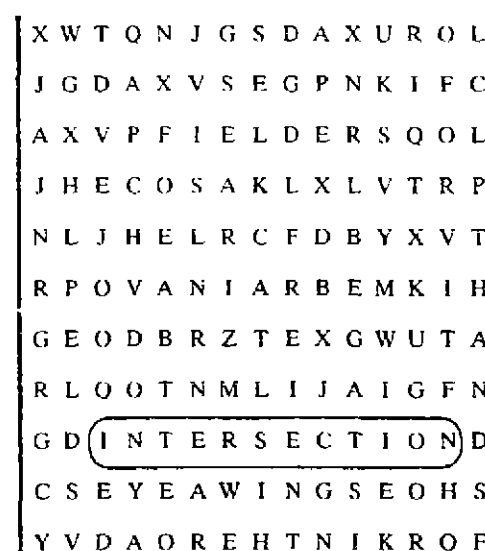
by JUDD

DIRECTIONS: Study the 15-letter words and the 10-letter words. Find the 15-letter words in the 15-letter words. Find the 10-letter words in the 10-letter words. Judd's solution tomorrow.

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Right & Left



Thursday's unlisted clue: MOTA
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: HAND COVERINGS
Arms: Fielder, Legs: Tackles
Brain: Fork in the road, Politics: Ventricle
Ears: Hands, Shoes: Wings
Eyes: Intersection, Slage

For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Saturday, July 4, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You are filled with enthusiasm and drive. Others respond to your energy by calling on you for leadership.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Appearances matter more than you think they should. You find great support in a most unexpected quarter.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're feeling altruistic. It's a good thing, too, as others demand your assistance. Help them out with a smile.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You spend time with a creative endeavor and are amazed at how inspired you are.
LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Looks like there are fireworks brewing on the domestic front.
VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You might not be getting richer, but your generosity certainly endears you to others.
LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) It seems as if all of humankind is essentially selfish. Don't get too cynical too soon.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your energy is peaking, so prepare to party. Meanwhile, you inspire your co-workers with your innovative ideas.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Time might drag for you, but you'll soon be smiling again. Meanwhile, cheer yourself up by blowing bubbles just for the heck of it.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) If you've been neglecting someone close lately, you suddenly begin to appreciate him or her all over again.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) A change on the home front catches you off guard. Avoid exhausting your friends with questions.
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) It's all right to think big. Although your dreams might sound crazy in theory, the reality is closer than you realize.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

Today's South had the right goal in mind: He had to keep East off lead. Unfortunately, he slipped somewhat in execution, allowing a crafty West to escape the trap. South took dummy's spade ace and surveyed his prospects. With the opening lead placing the spade queen with East, West's opening bid marked him with virtually all the remaining high cards. It looked as if it were going to be easy to keep East off lead. Briskly, South cashed dummy's spade king, ruffed a spade and led a trump, hoping to lose to West's singleton ace. However, West alertly won his ace and exited safely with a second trump, dummy winning. Trying another tack, South led a low diamond to his king, with visions of putting West on play in diamonds. Again a nimble West escaped. He dropped his queen under South's king. Now there was no way to keep East off lead, and South lost two clubs, a diamond and a trump for one down. South did well in the early game, but he botched the play in diamonds. Instead of leading a low diamond from dummy to his king, he should have led a low diamond toward dummy's ace. If West tries to unhook his queen on the first diamond lead, South allows him to hold it. And if West plays low, dummy wins the ace, and South ducks the next diamond, forcing West to win the trick. West is now endangered, and any lead he makes gives South his 10th winner.

NORTH
♠ A K 6
♥ Q J 8
♦ A 9 5 3
♣ 6 5

WEST
♠ J 10 8 7
♥ A 3
♦ Q 4
♣ A Q J 8 3

EAST
♠ Q 5 4 3
♥ 12
♦ J 10 8
♣ 10 9 7 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 2
♥ K 10 9 7 6 5
♦ K 7 2
♣ K 4

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: West

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ 3 ♠ 2 ♠ 4 ♠
Pass 3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Spade jack

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0522

ACROSS

- 1 Part of an astonished expression
- 9 They may be sliding
- 15 Film studio department
- 16 Magnet alloy
- 17 Partial
- 18 Bit of bail
- 19 Dolebook abbr.
- 20 Word div.
- 21 Liver accompaniment
- 22 Call for
- 24 Missouri feeder
- 26 Wipe out
- 30 Melodramatic
- 34 Party pooper
- 38 Therewithal
- 39 Slumbers?

DOWN

- 40 Less languid
- 42 Defendant's plea, briefly
- 43 Agents J and K, on-screen
- 45 Works toward a Masters?
- 47 Steinbeck's — Small
- 48 Blackjack request
- 50 Swerves at sea
- 54 Proceeded arrogantly
- 57 Place for 39-Across
- 61 Grand — ("Evangeline" setting)
- 62 Muse of astronomy
- 63 Critical element
- 65 Semisynthetic fabrics

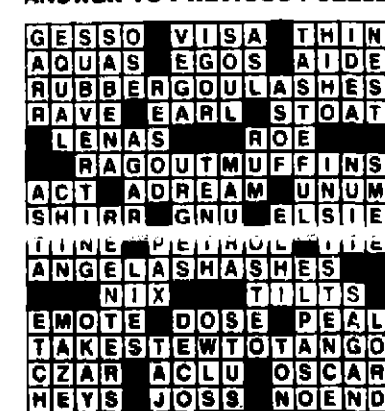
ACROSS

- 66 Necessitated
- 67 Break out
- 68 Some hoedown dancers

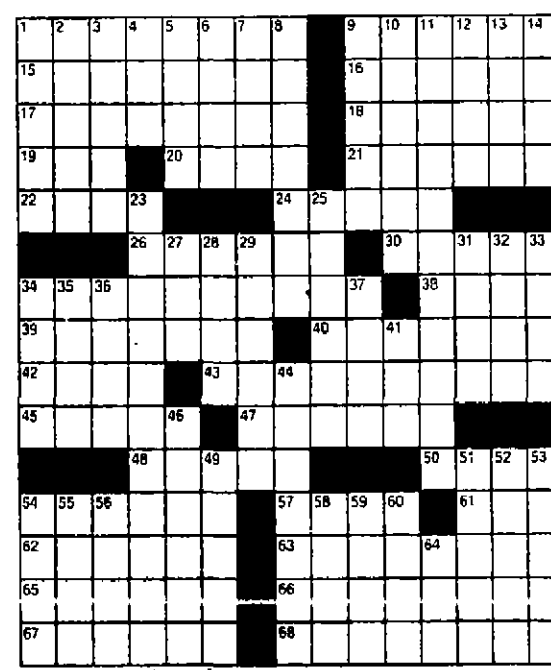
DOWN

- 1 Faint
- 2 Burst, in a way
- 3 Alpine feature
- 4 D.J.'s stack
- 5 TV angel
- 6 "Real Love" singer Watley
- 7 Offerer of lambs to God
- 8 Nuptial knot
- 9 Site of Margaret Mead study
- 10 Sticks
- 11 Star of "Riff Raff"
- 12 Prefix with type
- 13 Subj. for an M.B.A.
- 14 Propagates
- 23 Gambler's obligation
- 25 Enter through the cracks
- 27 70's-80's TV

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- 12 Prefix with type
- 13 Subj. for an M.B.A.
- 14 Propagates
- 23 Gambler's obligation
- 25 Enter through the cracks
- 27 70's-80's TV
- 28 Kind of team
- 29 Saint who founded scholasticism
- 31 Inter —



- 32 Time it takes for light to travel 3 mm
- 33 Richard III's house
- 34 Anna May of "Shanghai Express"
- 36 Like many an order
- 37 Where the Hermitage is: Abbr.
- 41 D.H.'s stat
- 44 Stickers?
- 46 It may be aluminum
- 49 Bail, say
- 51 Brown Betty ingredient
- 52 Less straight
- 53 Forwards
- 54 Irrefutable
- 55 Disney World transport
- 56 "Helzapoppin" actress
- 58 Isn't wrong?
- 59 Gung-ho about
- 60 Run a game on
- 64 Tuned in

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5556 (75c per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.